

NEW YORK

Marble Hill

It is customary to say "Manhattan" in the same breath with "island." Few realize that of Manhattan's 14,208 acres, fully fifty-two are firmly attached to the mainland of the Bronx. These acres, with their tall apartments housing 100 persons to the acre, constitute Marble Hill, cut off by the Harlem River Ship Canal from the rest of Manhattan. Last week James J. Lyons, President of the Borough of the Bronx, launched a campaign to round out his dominions by formally annexing Marble Hill, politically as well as geographically, to the 26,500-acre "borough of universities."

Until 1903 Marble Hill was physically a part of Manhattan Island, constituting its northernmost tip. Spuyten

Duyvil Creek wound between it and the then bucolic Bronx. Along came the United States Government with a plan to expedite interstate commerce; a canal was cut south of Marble Hill from the Hudson River to the Harlem, permitting ships to detour Manhattan on their way to Long Island Sound. The waters of Spuyten Duyvil Creek were diverted into the new canal and its bed was filled in for railroad yards. Marble Hill became, with the Bronx, a part of the North American mainland.

The "good people of Marble Hill," Borough President Lyons declared, are "genuine Bronxites at heart, notwithstanding the yoke of the imaginary line of the abandoned creek that makes them Manhattanites." The response to this challenge from the Borough President of Manhattan was mild. "With Wilson," said President Stanley M. Isaacs of the senior borough, "I believe in the self-determination of peoples. * * * But, personally, I don't believe that anybody would want to give up Manhattan for the Bronx."

An informal plebiscite showed that the people of Marble Hill agreed with Mr. Isaacs. Yesterday, when Mr. Lyons solemnly planted the orange, white and blue banner of the Bronx on Marble Hill, he did it to the accompaniment of boos from the Manhattan-minded residents. Marble Hill remains an outpost of Manhattan.

Jokes on the WPA

A WPA project foreman sent in a requisition for additional shovels. "No more shovels available," came the reply from headquarters. "Let the men lean on each other."

American history could almost be written in terms of its humor. War-time wags found inspiration in the A. W. O. L. rookie, kitchen police and the cootie. When a nation took to the paved highway, the joke was on the flivver. Many a profound theory on the internal effects of varnish remover and hair tonic served to date the prohibition period. A "riches to rags" type of story stemmed from the 1929 crash. The WPA served to boom business for the jokesmiths, who have made a stock comic character out of the laborer allegedly busy leaning on his shovel.

These jokes, told and retold in night

club and vaudeville, at country carnivals and on the radio, have not been popular with one section of the public—the 3,000,000 workers on the WPA rolls who, with their families, constitute a sizable part of the American audience. Last week the council of the American Federation of Actors adopted a resolution forbidding its 10,000 members to utter, before paying audiences, any more witticisms about the WPA or its employes.

Under the resolution, members will be liable to fine or possible suspension from the federation if they ridicule the WPA shovel or refer to strikes by relief workers as "mutiny on the bounty."

The Milk Market

The "New York Metropolitan Milk Marketing Area," as defined in Federal and State decrees, consists of the eight populous and thirsty counties at the southern tip of the Empire State—New York City plus Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester. Some 5,000,000 quarts flow into this market every day.

In this vast enterprise the only completely contented characters are the sleek, fawn-colored Jerseys and Guernseys, the handsome black and white Ayrshires and Holsteins and the cross-bred cows—about 1,000,000 in all—whose task it is to convert green grass and hay into liquid fodder for metropolitans and suburbanites. Their 65,000 owners have repeatedly shown discontent with the prices paid for milk; producers, distributors, consumers, city, State and Federal agencies, all have been engaged in recent years in an apparently endless series of quarrels, agreements, interstate compacts, threatened strikes, lawmaking and lawsuits.

Agreement Outlawed

The latest attempt at a settlement—previous efforts by New York State alone had come to grief because of alleged "chiseling" competition from near-by States—was a seven-State agreement approved last Summer by a referendum of dairymen and enforced under Federal law by the Department of Agriculture. It provided a complicated Federal-State mechanism for setting uniform prices to the producer for various grades of milk, with differentials for butterfat content and for the transportation distance to New York.

This system, like its predecessors, ran into difficulty. Last month both the Federal marketing order and the New York State Milk Marketing Law which it complemented were declared invalid by Federal and State courts in New York.

Since similar agreements had been upheld by courts in other States, it was certain that the issue would find its way to the Supreme Court. The provisions of the Federal-State pact were embodied meanwhile in a voluntary contract which was to become effective if signed by March 14 by 90 per cent of the distributors. Holdouts on signing made the result doubtful.

(New Control of Milk Sought; p. 10)

—NORTH OF THE HARLEM

